GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:565
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
RIGHT TO EDUCATION
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Maharia Shri Subhash;Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the draft Bill on Right to Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have rejected the Government`s suggestion to draw up their own law in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the directive principle of `Right to Education` enshrined in our Constitution has been fulfilled;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and (g) the steps taken to provide free and compulsory education to children?

Answer

MINISTER. OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (g): In pursuance of Article 21 A of the Constitution, which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6-14 years by providing that ` the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine`, a draft Model Riqht to Education Bill was formulated and circulated as framework to the state /UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon. The main objections raised by the States and UTs relate to:

1. Proposal regarding replacement of the Central Legislation by a Model Bill for State Legislation.

2. Linkage of SSA funding with State/UT enactment of Model Right to Education Bill or modification of existing State/UT Acts.

3. Making elementary education first charge on revenues of each State Government, next only to law and order.

4. Financial liability for free and compulsory education to be borne by the States/UTs.
In view of the objections raised and strong reservations expressed by various States/UTs, the meeting of the High Level Group (HLG) comprising Minister of Human Resource Development, Finance Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman of the Prime Minister`s Economic Advisory Council was held on 6th November, 2007 to examine the issues involved and advise the Government on how best to take the matter forward with a view to fulfill the commitment of the Government to facilitate the enactment of an appropriate Law that would enable the realization of making education a Fundamental Right as required by the Constitution, The objectives of universalization of elementary education are being addressed through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme. The Central Government has in the last three years significantly enhanced the budgetary allocations to State Governments as part, of its commitment towards universalization of elementary education.